porters, following complaints of overcharging and misbehaviour by the porters at various railway stations in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce this system at other Railway stations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It was proposed to run the pre-paid booths scheme at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations and arragements were made to open one booth each at Delhi and New Delhi stations w.e.f. 20.3.1998 due to the agitation by the licensed porters against introduction of the scheme. It is proposed to re-introduce the scheme in Delhi area after proper examination of the related issues including the objections raised by the licensed porters. However, extension of the scheme at other major stations of Indian Railways will depend upon the outcome of the decision about the introduction of the scheme in Delhi area.

रास्ते में माल के चोरी होने अथवा गायब हो जाने पर दावेदार को क्षतिपूर्ति करना

2711. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया** :

श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे में बुक किए गए माल के निर्धारित समय में निश्चित स्थान पर न पहुंचने अथवा रास्ते में माल के चोरी हो जाने अथवा गायब हो जाने की स्थिति में रेलवे को माल के दावेदार को क्षतिपूर्ति करनी पड़ती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1995-96, 19969-97 तथा 1997-98 में वर्षवार कुल कितनी राशि के दावे किए गए, और

(घ) इनमें से कितने मूल्य के दावों का भुगतान रेलवे द्वारा किया गया ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) और (ग) पिछले तीन वर्षो में हानि और चोरी, उठाईगीरी, परिवहन में विलंब इत्यादि के कारण दावावर्त्ता द्वारा दावा की गई राशि और रेलों द्वारा क्षतिपूर्ति के रूप में भुगतान की गई राशि निम्नलिखित है:-

वर्ष	दावा राशि	भुगतान की गई राशि
1995-96	58,897.63	2,695.10
1996-97	54,475.19	2,805.05
1997-98	72,894.92	2,758.10

Stoppage of Trains at Kuppam

2712. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to issue instructions to-stop certain trains at Kuppam to cater to the need of passengers from Kuppam especially in Mysore-Tirupati passenger, Lalbagh Express and Bangalore-Howrah Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) At present, 213/214 Mysore-Tirupati fast passenger fs already stopping at Kuppam. However there is no such proposal to provide stoppage to additional trains including 2607/2608 Chennai-Bangalore Lalbagh Express and 56255626 Bangalore-Guwahati Express at Kuppam.

(c) Provision of stoppage to additional trains including 2607/2608 Lalbagh Express and 56255626 Bangalore-Guwahati Express at Kuppam has been examined but not found feasible at present.

Merger of Guntakal Division with Head-quarters of Bangalore

2713. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested not to merge the